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PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Blunt and Lt. Governor Kinder Announce Two Senior Initiatives for 2006

Funding Priorities for Senior Program's Outlined

Jefferson City- Missouri's Governor Matt Blunt and Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder announced their support for additional funding for two vital senior programs today at a press conference held in the Governor's office. As the Official Senior Advocate for the State of Missouri, Lt. Governor Kinder had requested funding be increased for the Home Delivered Meals program and for the revised Missouri Rx plan. Governor Blunt backs increases in funding for these senior programs.

"I want to thank Governor Blunt for his continuing support for these essential senior programs" said Kinder. He added, "By increasing funding in 2006 for Home Delivered Meals by \$600,000 and adding an additional \$400,000 for Missouri Rx, we are continuing our commitment to Missouri's low-income seniors. These two programs are excellent examples of how we can help our most vulnerable citizens"

"When state government is efficient and responsive to its citizens, we can boost funding for crucial programs such as Home Delivered Meals and Missouri Rx" said Governor Blunt. The Governor also said, "I am pleased we can provide additional services and increase assistance to Missouri seniors."

The Governor boosted funding in the 2005 budget for Medicaid recipients enrolled in the Home Delivered Meals program by \$1.4 million dollars. This year's increase will assist non-Medicaid qualifying seniors.

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The Home Delivered Meals program is administered through the ten Missouri Area Agencies on Aging offices. St. Louis Area Agency on Aging Director David

Sykora applauded the funding increases proposed by the Governor and Lt. Governor. “The Home Delivered Meals program is a great example of smart spending of state funds” said Sykora. He added, “This program allows many seniors to remain in their homes independently and to live with dignity. I want to thank Governor Blunt and Lt. Governor Kinder for their support and commitment to funding Home Delivered Meals in Missouri.”

The additional \$400,000.00 for Missouri Rx Plan will be targeted at outreach and education. Missouri Rx was created by the 83rd General Assembly to provide a supplemental benefit to the new Medicare Rx (aka Part D). The Missouri Rx Plan went into effect January 1.